

The Urban District Council of Hexham

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ANNUAL REPORT

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

For the Year 1966

J. M. McEwan, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

STAFF

J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| H. MITCHELL | Senior Public Health Inspector |
| J. K. PATTERSON | Assistant Public Health Inspector |
| A. SUMMERS | Clerk |

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Hexham :

MR. CHAIRMAN, GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1966.

In reviewing the work of the Health Department during the year it is not possible to record any outstanding developments, but as the work is largely routine and is concerned with the maintenance and improvement of the public health, which has already reached a high standard, it is not surprising that this should be so. The heroic days of the Public Health Service, in which control of epidemic disease depended on drastic improvements in the environmental conditions of housing, sanitation and water supply, carried out in spite of local apathy and opposition, are long past, and preventive medicine and the personal health services are of increasing importance. The value of the routine work of the Department should not however be under-estimated, and it is still necessary to devote attention to the environmental services if the health of the community is not to suffer.

The town of Hexham is changing slowly in many ways as it adapts to modern conceptions of working and living and meets the problems of a more affluent society and in particular a great increase in road traffic. It is an ancient market town whose charm and historic interest attract both visitors and new residents, yet its population shows little annual variation. As the administrative and cultural centre of a large agricultural area it offers a wide range of occupations, and is a prosperous and busy town, with almost full employment. The health of the community, and the social amenities generally, are satisfactory.

The population of Hexham remains virtually unchanged. It has increased by only 20 over the 1965 figure, and there was an excess of deaths over births of 8. As 70 houses were built during the year, 47 privately, and only 5 were closed, there must be a movement away from the town, as has been noted in previous years. The birth rate was slightly below the national average and the death rate slightly above, so that the population is not maintaining itself and preponderance of older people is indicated by the high age at death — half the deaths were of people over 75, one quarter were of people over 80, and 6 were of people over 90. A town such as

Hexham does of course attract people in retirement, particularly from the farming and business community. As in previous years the main causes of death were the degenerative diseases of the heart and circulation. Lung cancer accounted for only 2 deaths, and 13 were due to other diseases of the respiratory system. The infant mortality rate is very close to the figure for England and Wales, and calls for no special comment.

Measles was again prevalent, but on a lesser scale than in 1965. There were 8 notifications of scarlet fever and 12 of pneumonia, but both diseases are less serious than they were in the past. Scarlet fever in particular is now a mild disease and occurs sporadically, its main public health concern being the possibility of epidemic spread should it occur in food or milk handlers. Although gastro-intestinal illness was not uncommon investigations were negative except in one case of dysentery, and the others were presumably of virus origin. All these notifications are of relatively minor importance.

The major infectious diseases were again absent, and a high level of immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and poliomyelitis has been achieved and maintained with the support of parents, doctors and Health Visitors. There were 5 notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis, and one of non pulmonary disease, with no deaths. This disease also is of less serious significance than formerly, and it is encouraging to find how readily patients accept the diagnosis and treatment.

There was quite a sharp outbreak of infective hepatitis affecting the children in two schools in Hexham in the autumn of 1966 and it was decided to take part in a field trial of gamma globulin in the protection of contacts. 36 children were reported as suffering from the disease which is of virus origin and is not notifiable. 500 contacts were offered the opportunity to take part in the trial, and the parents of 316 agreed. Gamma globulin was given to half the children on a basis of random selection, and they and the contacts were observed for 6 months. During that time only one further case occurred in an unprotected contact and the trial was inconclusive. Trials elsewhere involving larger numbers at an earlier stage of an outbreak may prove of more significance.

In the fields of housing, water supply and sewage disposal the position is very satisfactory. The need for family houses

has largely been met, and the housing list is shorter and the urgency of need for rehousing is not high. The proposed hostel to provide sheltered accommodation for the frail elderly is in course of preparation, and the welfare amenities have the support of the County Council. Its need becomes increasingly obvious to fill the gap between ordinary housing and an old people's house or hospital, and with it the Council will have provided a number and range of houses almost adequate to the present needs.

The Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, as statutory water undertakers, continue to supply water of satisfactory quality and quantity to the town. The water is rather low in fluoride content and is not unduly plumbosolvent. The Company take frequent water samples, the results of which are made known to the Department, and undertake remedial measures if necessary. The Council are responsible only for the few private supplies that remain, and advice and assistance are given when required.

Work continued during the year on the joint sewerage scheme with Hexham Rural District, and it is now nearing completion. The scheme has taken many years to come to this stage and has been a very costly undertaking, but of recent years at least the need for replacement of the old works has not been in question. A further step has been taken to reduce pollution of the River Tyne, and the amenities of Tyne Green will be much improved by the removal of treatment works from the site, where they were a cause of offence and a potential danger to health.

Further information required by the Ministry of Health is contained in the Chief Public Health Inspector's section of the Report, where records show the routine work of the Department.

The whole Council form the Public Health Committee, and I have to thank the Councillors for their interest and encouragement. I should like to record too my thanks to the Clerk and other Officers for their courtesy and co-operation, and the staff of the Health Department for their willing and efficient service.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. M. McEWAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Area in Acres | 5,932 |
| Estimated Population | 9,710 |

Vital Statistics

BIRTHS :

| LIVE BIRTHS | M. | F. | Total |
|----------------------|----|----|-----------------|
| Legitimate.. .. . | 80 | 52 | 132 |
| Illegitimate | 8 | 5 | 13 |
| | | | <hr/> 145 <hr/> |
| STILL BIRTHS | M. | F. | Total |
| Legitimate.. .. . | — | — | — |
| Illegitimate | — | — | — |
| | | | <hr/> — <hr/> |

| | |
|---|------|
| Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population | 15.8 |
| Total Live and Still Births | 145 |
| Total (Live and Still) Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population | 15.8 |
| Still-births Rate per 1,000 live and still-births | Nil |
| Live Birth Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 population.. .. . | 17.7 |
| Still-births Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 live and still-births | 15.4 |

DEATHS :

| | |
|---|------|
| Total Deaths.. .. . | 140 |
| Total infant deaths | 3 |
| Infant deaths under four weeks | 2 |
| Deaths of infants under one year of age :— | |
| Legitimate infants | 3 |
| Illegitimate infants | Nil |
| Infantile Mortality per 1,000 live births | 19.5 |
| Infantile Mortality, England and Wales, per 1,000 live births | 19.0 |
| Infantile Mortality (Legitimate) per 1,000 live births | 19.5 |
| Infantile Mortality (Illegitimate) per 1,000 live births | Nil |

| | |
|--|-------|
| Infantile Mortality (first four weeks) per 1,000 live births | 13.01 |
| Infantile Mortality (under one week of age) per 1,000 live births | 6.5 |
| Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still-births and deaths under one week combined) per 1,000 total live and still-births | 6.5 |
| Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births | 8.4 |
| Deaths from Maternal causes | Nil |
| Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births | Nil |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | 19 |
| Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (all causes and ages) | 12.6 |
| Death Rate England and Wales per 1,000 population (all causes and ages) | 11.7 |

The following Table classifies deaths according to their age groups and as to their certification :—

| | CERTIFIED | | UNCERTIFIED | |
|--------|-----------|--------|-------------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| 0—I | 2 | I | — | — |
| I—2 | I | — | — | — |
| 2—4 | — | I | — | — |
| 5—I4 | I | I | — | — |
| I5—24 | I | — | — | — |
| 25—44 | I | 3 | — | — |
| 45—49 | I | 2 | — | — |
| 50—54 | 5 | — | — | — |
| 55—59 | 6 | 3 | — | — |
| 60—64 | 8 | 3 | — | — |
| 65—69 | 7 | 6 | — | I |
| 70—74 | 7 | 9 | — | I |
| 75—79 | 5 | I5 | — | — |
| 80—84 | 8 | 20 | — | — |
| 85—89 | 7 | 7 | — | — |
| 90—94 | 2 | 2 | — | I |
| 95—I00 | I | I | — | — |
| | 63 | 74 | — | 3 |

The chief causes of death are as follows :—

| | M. | F. |
|---|-----|----|
| Tuberculosis of resp. system | — | — |
| Tuberculosis, other | — | — |
| Syphilitic disease | — | — |
| Diphtheria | — | — |
| Whooping Cough | — | — |
| Meningococcal infections | — | — |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | — | — |
| Measles | — | — |
| Other infective and parasitic disease | — | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasm, stomach | 1 | 1 |
| " " lung, bronchus | 2 | — |
| " " breast | — | 3 |
| " " uterus | — | 2 |
| Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 6 | 4 |
| Leukaemia, aleukaemia | 1 | 1 |
| Diabetes | — | 3 |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system | 15 | 16 |
| Coronary disease, angina | 14 | 17 |
| Hypertension with heart disease | 1 | — |
| Other heart disease | 2 | 4 |
| Other circulatory disease | 2 | 1 |
| Influenza | — | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 4 | 5 |
| Bronchitis | 4 | — |
| Other diseases of respiratory system | — | — |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | — | 2 |
| Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea | 1 | — |
| Nephritis and nephrosis | — | — |
| Hyperplasia of prostate | 1 | — |
| Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion | — | — |
| Congenital malformations | — | 1 |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases | 5 | 11 |
| Motor vehicle accidents | 3 | 2 |
| All other accidents | 1 | 2 |
| Suicide | — | — |
| Homicide and operations of war | — | — |
| All causes | 63 | 77 |
| TOTAL | 140 | |

INFANT MORTALITY

During Year ending 31st December, 1966

| Causes of Death | Under 1 week | Total Deaths under 1 year |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Pneumonia .. | — | 1 |
| Congenital Malform- ations .. | — | 1 |
| Accident .. | 1 | 1 |
| All causes .. | 1 | 3 |

VITAL & MORTALITY STATISTICS.

| Year | Birth Rate | Death Rate | Infant Mortality Rate |
|------|------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| 1946 | 16.6 | 12.4 | 18.5 |
| 1947 | 18.5 | 14.3 | 54.9 |
| 1948 | 17.7 | 12.2 | 12.4 |
| 1949 | 13.9 | 17.3 | 39.4 |
| 1950 | 16.0 | 13.7 | 53.0 |
| 1951 | 14.1 | 13.6 | 38.2 |
| 1952 | 13.7 | 11.4 | 62.0 |
| 1953 | 13.2 | 11.09 | 24.0 |
| 1954 | 12.7 | 10.8 | 33.05 |
| 1955 | 14.2 | 10.7 | 22.3 |
| 1956 | 13.7 | 13.05 | 15.2 |
| 1957 | 15.4 | 12.2 | 27.2 |
| 1958 | 13.2 | 14.7 | 32.3 |
| 1959 | 15.8 | 12.06 | 40.6 |
| 1960 | 15.9 | 12.4 | 6.6 |
| 1961 | 13.7 | 13.9 | 15.3 |
| 1962 | 14.3 | 12.9 | 7.2 |
| 1963 | 13.9 | 12.2 | 22.2 |
| 1964 | 15.3 | 11.3 | 20.2 |
| 1965 | 14.4 | 11.5 | 21.4 |
| 1966 | 15.8 | 12.6 | 19.5 |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1966.

| NOTIFIABLE DISEASE | At all Ages. | Under 1. | 1 to 2. | 2 to 5. | 5 to 15. | 15 to 25. | 25 to 45. | 45 to 65. | 65 & upward | Age not known |
|--------------------------|--------------|----------|---------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|---------------|
| Scarlet Fever ... | 8 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Whooping Cough ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Diphtheria ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Measles ... | 61 | 2 | 4 | 20 | 34 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Pneumonia ... | 12 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Acute poliomyelitis | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Acute polioencephalitis | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Acute Encephalitis | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Lethargica ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Dysentery ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Smallpox ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Paratyphoid Fever | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Typhoid Fever | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Erysipelas ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Food Poisoning ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Meningitis | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Malaria | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| TOTALS ... | 85 | 2 | 4 | 26 | 36 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 4 |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1946-1966.

| Year. | Scarlet Fever. | Whooping Cough | Diphtheria | Measles | Ac. Pneumonia | Cerebrospinal Fever. | Acute Polio-myelitis | Acute Polio-encephalitis | Acute Encephalitis Lethargica | Dysentery | Ophthalmia Neonatorum | Puerperal Pyrexia | Smallpox | Paratyphoid Fevers | Enteric or Typhoid Fever | Erysipelas | Food Poisoning | Meningitis |
|-------|----------------|----------------|------------|---------|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------|--------------------|--------------------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| 1946 | 7 | 24 | 1 | 93 | 7 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1947 | 6 | 18 | 1 | 29 | 5 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1948 | 7 | 31 | — | 60 | 4 | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1949 | 12 | 7 | — | 8 | 10 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 59 | — |
| 1950 | 14 | 7 | — | 298 | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | — |
| 1951 | 6 | 18 | — | 10 | 7 | — | — | — | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| 1952 | 5 | 17 | — | 143 | 4 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1953 | 29 | 51 | — | 86 | 7 | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1954 | 5 | 14 | — | 6 | 5 | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1955 | 4 | 18 | — | 103 | 4 | 3 | — | — | — | 24 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1956 | 1 | 3 | — | — | 6 | — | — | — | — | 15 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1957 | 8 | 1 | — | 102 | 9 | — | — | — | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1958 | 9 | 39 | — | 1 | 10 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1959 | — | 4 | — | 113 | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1960 | 2 | — | — | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| 1961 | 1 | — | — | 222 | 6 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| 1962 | 4 | 14 | — | 3 | 7 | — | — | — | — | 5 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1963 | 6 | 2 | — | 131 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1964 | 22 | 1 | — | 22 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1965 | 13 | 3 | — | 164 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1966 | 8 | 1 | — | 61 | 12 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

TUBERCULOSIS, 1946-1966

| Year | New Cases | | Deaths | |
|------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|
| | Pulmonary | Other | Pulmonary | Other |
| 1946 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| 1947 | 6 | — | 3 | 1 |
| 1948 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 1 |
| 1949 | 6 | 6 | 1 | — |
| 1950 | 7 | 5 | 2 | — |
| 1951 | 3 | 2 | 1 | — |
| 1952 | 4 | 2 | — | — |
| 1953 | 5 | 8 | 1 | — |
| 1954 | 4 | 1 | — | — |
| 1955 | 14 | 2 | — | — |
| 1956 | 7 | 4 | 1 | — |
| 1957 | 6 | 1 | — | 1 |
| 1958 | 10 | 2 | — | — |
| 1959 | 7 | 2 | — | — |
| 1960 | 3 | — | — | — |
| 1961 | 11 | — | 1 | — |
| 1962 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| 1963 | 3 | 2 | — | — |
| 1964 | 4 | 1 | — | — |
| 1965 | 4 | 1 | — | — |
| 1966 | 5 | 1 | — | — |

TUBERCULOSIS.—New cases and Mortality during 1966 :—

| Age periods | New Cases | | | | Nett Deaths in Hexham Urban District | | | |
|-------------|-----------|----|-----------|----|--------------------------------------|----|-----------|----|
| | Pulmonary | | Non Pulm. | | Pulmonary | | Non Pulm. | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0—I .. | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1—4 .. | I | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5—I4 .. | I | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 15—24 .. | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 25—34 .. | — | I | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 35—44 .. | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 45—54 .. | — | — | I | — | — | — | — | — |
| 55—64 .. | I | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 65 & over | I | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| TOTALS .. | 4 | I | I | — | — | — | — | — |

| | Cases Notified | Deaths |
|----------------------|----------------|--------|
| Gilesgate Ward | — | — |
| Leazes Ward | I | — |
| Priestpottle Ward .. | 4 | — |
| Hencotes Ward .. | I | — |
| | 6 | — |

FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS (CORRECTED)
RETURNED TO REGISTRAR GENERAL

| 1ST QTR. | 2ND QTR. | 3RD QTR. | 4TH QTR. | | | | | TOTAL |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|----------|-------------------|----|------|----|-------|
| Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | | | | | Nil. |
| OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS | | | | | | | | |
| Total Outbreaks—Nil. | | Total Cases—Nil. | | Total Deaths— | | Nil. | | |
| OUTBREAKS DUE TO :— | | | | | | | | |
| (a) | Chemical Poisons | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nil. |
| (b) | Salmonella Organisms | | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nil. |
| (c) | Staphylococci (including toxin) | | | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nil. |
| (d) | Cl. Botulinum | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nil. |
| (e) | Other Bacteria | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nil. |
| OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE : | | | | | | | | |
| Total Outbreaks—Nil.. | | Total Cases—Nil. | | Total Deaths—Nil. | | | | |
| SINGLE CASES : | | | | | | | | |
| Agent identified—Nil. | | Unknown cause—Nil. | | Total—Nil. | | | | |

HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA

1. Hospitals

There are in the district two hospitals, namely the Hexham General Hospital and the Hexham War Memorial Hospital under the management of the Hexham and District Hospital Management Committee. These hospitals together with others in the area under the Hexham and District Hospital Management Committee and the Newcastle group of hospitals are available to cases from the area.

Cases of infectious diseases requiring admission to hospital are referred to the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Newcastle upon Tyne.

2. Ambulance Service

The British Red Cross acting as agents for the Northumberland County Council provide an ambulance service which serves the district. An ambulance station is situated at West Orchard, Hexham.

3. Home Help Service

The Northumberland County Council Home Help Service is in operation in the district. Home Helps are available to householders where such help is required owing to illness or confinement and their services are obtained through the office of the West Area Health Sub-Committee.

4. Local Authority Clinics

The following Clinics are held in the district :

Child Welfare Clinic : Abbey House, Hexham.

Friday, 9-30 a.m. — 12 a.m. and 1-30 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinic : Abbey House, Hexham.

First Tuesday in every month, 1-30 p.m. — 4 p.m.,
second, third and fourth Wednesdays in every month,
1-30 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Women's Advisory Clinic : Abbey House, Hexham.

Every Thursday, 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Cervical Cytology Clinic : Abbey House, Hexham.

First Wednesday in each month, 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Relaxation Clinic : Abbey House, Hexham.

Every Tuesday, 1-30 p.m. — 4 p.m.

5. Midwifery and Home Nursing

These services are administered by the Northumberland County Council and in this district are combined. There are two Nurse Midwives working in the Hexham Urban District.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

(MR. H. MITCHELL)

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

| | |
|---|-----|
| Factories and Workplaces | 170 |
| Milk and Dairies | 61 |
| Drainage Works : Alterations—additions | 41 |
| New Constructions | 123 |
| Defective | 5 |
| Water Supply.. .. . | 45 |
| Food Premises | 566 |
| Slaughter Houses and Knackers' Yards | 735 |
| Caravan Control | 66 |
| Clean Air | 18 |
| Offensive Trades | 22 |
| Visits, Public Health and Housing Acts | 922 |
| Disinfestation of Rats, Mice and other Vermin | 163 |
| Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act.. .. . | 238 |

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Sanitary Circumstances

Drainage Works

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| New drains constructed | 51 |
| Alterations/Additions | 27 |
| Defective drains repaired | 4 |

Sanitary Conveniences

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Additional baths provided | 10 |
| Additional sinks provided | 11 |

Testing of Drains

All sewers and drains are tested by smoke under pressure or by hydraulic test.

Notifiable Diseases

Investigations were carried out in connection with one suspected case of para-typhoid B which was not confirmed, one case of sonnei dysentery, five cases of gastro-enteritis, eight cases of scarlatina together with the contacts of these cases.

Eleven faecal specimens were submitted for laboratory examination and report.

There are no Common Lodging Houses within the District.

Disinfestation

Approved insecticides are used in all cases for the eradication of vermin and parasites. The common house fly is not now a serious problem, and the average householder is able to purchase many of the aerosols which are so effective in dealing with flying and crawling insects.

Swimming Baths

Samples are collected fortnightly when in use. 9 samples were collected, all satisfactory.

Water Supply

The town's water supply has been very satisfactory during the year, and the officials of the water company have been most co-operative at all times when situations arose in which your health department was concerned.

Regular sampling of water from the Gunnerton and Ladle Wells mains was carried out, and all samples despatched to the public health laboratory service, Newcastle General Hospital, for bacteriological examination and report.

| | |
|--|----|
| Number of samples collected from public services | 24 |
| Number of samples collected by the Water Company .. . | 20 |

Typical Analyses of Water from Ladle Wells and Gunnerton

| Samples taken at | <i>Gunnerton</i> | <i>Ladle Wells</i> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| pH Value | 7.0 | 7.4 |
| Colour | 3°H. | 0°H. |
| Turbidity | 0 | 0 |
| Hardness | 64 | 26 |
| Alkalinity | 32 | 45 |
| Chloride | 14 | 9 |
| Sulphate | 30 | 14 |
| Ammonia | .06 | .02 |
| Iron | .02 | .05 |
| Manganese | <.05 | Not detected |
| Oxygen Absorbed .. | 0.4 | 0 |
| Fluoride | 0.1 average 0.2 max. | 0.1 max. |

These figures were provided by kind permission of Dr. A. T. Palin, Chief Chemist to the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

Systematic inspections of food premises and food factories have continued during the year and standards of such premises remain satisfactory.

Food Generally

Within the area are 106 food premises of various kinds, 64 of which are registered. In connection with food hygiene, both management and personnel have co-operated with your inspectorate in the administration of the regulations.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960

| Type of Business | Total No. | No. complying with Reg. 16 | Premises to which Reg. 19 applies | Number fitted to comply with Reg. 19 |
|--------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Bakehouses.. .. | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Butchers | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Grocers | 17 | 17 | 15 | 15 |
| Catering Establishments .. | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Greengrocers .. | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Wet fish shops .. | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Fried fish shops .. | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Ice-cream dealers/sweets | 50 | 50 | 3 | 3 |

Ice-Cream

Three producers are registered in the area, and 50 shops are registered to sell pre-packed ice-cream. In all cases regular visits of inspection are made and the standard of hygiene is satisfactory. The Heat-treatment Regulations are carried out to the satisfaction of your inspectorate.

Number of premises registered during the year .. Nil

Number of samples collected for examination .. 10

Results of examination :

| | |
|------------|---|
| Grade I .. | 6 |
| „ II .. | 2 |
| „ III .. | 1 |
| „ IV .. | 1 |

Milk and Dairies

Routine sampling of milk is systematically carried out during the year, and specific sampling when necessary.

| | |
|--|----|
| Number collected for report on keeping quality (Methylene-blue) | 76 |
| Number collected for biological report (Tuberculosis) | 3 |

Brucellosis : During the latter part of the year regular sampling of the producer retailers' supplies was started, 3 samples being obtained.

Milk Supplies — Brucella Abortus

| | |
|---|-----|
| (i) Number of samples of raw milk examined.. | 3 |
| (ii) Number of positive samples found.. | Nil |
| (iii) Action taken in respect of positive samples | — |

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

| | |
|--|-----|
| (i) Number of egg pasteurisation plants in the district | Nil |
| (ii) Number of samples of liquid egg submitted to the Alpha-Amylase test and their results | Nil |
| (iii) Comments on the year's administration of these Regulations | — |

Poultry Inspection

| | |
|--|-----|
| (i) Number of poultry processing premises within the district | Nil |
| (ii) Number of visits to these premises.. | Nil |
| (iii) Total number of birds processed during the year | Nil |
| (iv) Types of birds processed | Nil |
| (v) Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption.. .. . | Nil |
| (vi) Weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption.. .. . | Nil |
| (vii) Comments on poultry processing and inspection | Nil |

FOOD INSPECTION

| UNSOUND FOOD | | | | Surrendered | Seized | Legal Pro- ceedings |
|----------------------|----|----|----|-------------|--------|---------------------------|
| | | | | sts. lbs. | | |
| Beef (Home-killed) | .. | | | 397 | 3 | — |
| Beef (Imported) | .. | | | — | — | — |
| Mutton (Home-killed) | .. | | | 67 | 1 | — |
| Mutton (Imported) | .. | | | — | — | — |
| Pork | .. | .. | .. | 97 | 11 | — |
| Game | .. | .. | .. | — | — | — |
| Poultry | .. | .. | .. | — | — | — |
| Veal | .. | .. | .. | 21 | 2 | |
| | | | | lbs. ozs. | | |
| Fish | .. | .. | .. | — | — | — |
| Fruit | .. | .. | .. | — | — | — |
| Canned Goods | .. | .. | .. | 197 | 3 | — |
| Bacon | .. | .. | .. | 118 | — | — |
| Cheese | .. | .. | .. | — | — | — |
| Butter | .. | .. | .. | — | — | — |
| Lard | .. | .. | .. | — | — | — |
| Eggs | .. | .. | .. | — | — | — |
| Other Foods | .. | .. | .. | — | — | — |
| Frozen Foods | .. | .. | .. | — | — | — |

TOTAL .. 605 st. 10 lbs. 3 oz.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

| | Cattle excl'd'g Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs | Totals |
|--|----------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|-------|--------|
| Number killed .. | 1,714 | 72 | 28 | 5,789 | 2,736 | 10,339 |
| Number inspected .. | 1,714 | 72 | 28 | 5,789 | 2,736 | 10,339 |
| <i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i> | | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses con- demned | 4 | 16 | 8 | 25 | 7 | |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned | 26 | 16 | — | 45 | 14 | |
| Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and and cysticerci .. | 1.76 | 44.4 | 28.57 | 1.21 | 0.77 | |
| <i>Tuberculosis only :</i> | | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses con- demned | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 3 | 1 | Nil. | Nil. | 2 | |
| Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis .. | 0.58 | 1.39 | Nil. | Nil. | 0.72 | |
| <i>C. Bovis</i> | | | | | | |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned | 1 | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | |
| Carcases submitted to treatment by refriger- tion | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | |
| Generalised and totally condemned | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | |

NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AT THE ABATTOIR

| Steers | Heifers | Cows Bulls | Calves | Sheep Lambs | Rams Ewes | Pigs | Sows Boars |
|--------|---------|---------------|--------|----------------|--------------|-------|---------------|
| 498 | 1,216 | 72 | 28 | 5,511 | 278 | 2,623 | 113 |

SUMMARY OF UNSOUND MEAT AND OFFAL

| | Tuberculosis | Other Diseases | Total |
|------------------|--------------|----------------|--------|
| | lbs. | lbs. | lbs. |
| Cows | 30 | 6,343 | 6,373 |
| Other Animals .. | 57 | 11,195 | 11,252 |
| TOTAL .. | 87 | 17,538 | 17,625 |

All unsound meat and offal condemned at the Abattoir is collected by a processing firm from Gateshead where it is sterilized under supervision.

TUBERCULOSIS IN COWS

| | 1954 | 1955 | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 | 1959 | 1960 | 1961 | 1962 | 1963 | 1964 | 1965 | 1966 |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Whole Carcases condemned | 22 | 11 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 5 | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| Part Carcases or organs affected ... | 112 | 55 | 53 | 21 | 48 | 39 | 33 | 9 | 14 | 7 | — | 2 | 1 |
| Percentage affected ... | 23.3% | 14.6% | 12.0% | 6.3% | 7.8% | 11.3% | 9.5% | 3.1% | 5% | 6.6% | — | 3.0% | .72% |

The above table shows the gradual decline in the incidence of tuberculosis found in cows since these figures were first recorded in 1951.

The figure for 1951 was 26.3% and for 1952, 20.2% and for 1953 was 15.7%.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933-54

Renewals of Licences to Slaughter 7

HOUSING

TABULAR STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1966

| NEW HOUSES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR | With State Assistance | Unaided | Total |
|---|--------------------------|---------|-------|
| (a) By Local Authority .. | Nil | 22 | 22 |
| (b) By any other Author- ority | Nil | 1 | 1 |
| (c) By Private Persons .. | Nil | 47 | 47 |

| | |
|--|-------|
| Total Number of Inhabited Houses in District | 3,422 |
| Total Number of Houses owned by the Local Authority .. | 1,082 |
| Estimated Population | 9,710 |

1.—Closing and Demolition of Houses

| | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of houses demolished as a result of clearance Schemes | Nil |
| (Number of houses included in above which were from pre-war confirmed Clearance Areas) | Nil |
| (2) Number of houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure | 3 |
| (3) Houses closed, including partial closure | 3 |
| (4) Other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings.. | 2 |

2.—Reconditioning and Repair

Number of unfit houses rendered fit by procedure under
either Housing or Public Health Acts :

| | |
|---|-----|
| (1) As a result of informal action | 35 |
| (2) By owners as a result of statutory action | Nil |
| (3) By local authority on default of owners | Nil |

3.—Inspection

| | |
|---|----|
| (1) Number of houses inspected and visited for defects under Public Health or Housing Acts | 72 |
| (2) Number of houses and parts found to have defects .. | 28 |
| (3) Number of houses and parts found to be wholly unfit for human habitation | 2 |

4.—Housing Act, 1949

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

| | |
|--|-----|
| (a) <i>Discretionary</i> : | |
| Applications submitted to local authority | 12 |
| Applications rejected by local authority | Nil |
| Applications approved | 12 |
| Total number of applications approved in area since inception of scheme | 189 |
| (b) <i>Standard</i> : | |
| Number of houses for which grants have been made during the year | 9 |
| Total number to date | 48 |

5.—Families Rehoused during 1966*Under points scheme :*

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| From private houses | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 16 |
| From Council houses | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 |

Other Cases :

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| For medical reasons | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nil |
| Under eviction orders | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| From unfit houses | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
| Key workers | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| For other reasons | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
| Exchanges from private houses | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |

Decanted from Council houses :

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| For moral overcrowding | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 |
| For under-occupation | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8 |
| For medical reasons | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
| For other reasons | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 15 |

To aged persons' bungalows :

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| From Council houses | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nil |
| From private houses | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 |
| From other bungalows | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nil |

Applicants rehoused other than by Urban Council :

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| By other local authorities | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
| Privately | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 17 |
| Cancelled applications | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10 |

6.—Housing Repairs and Rents Acts, 1954 and the Rent Act, 1957*Certificates of Disrepair :*

| | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Number of applications for certificates | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nil |
| Number granted | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nil |
| Undertakings received | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nil |
| Repairs completed. Cases terminated | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nil |

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

| | TYPE OF PROPERTY | |
|---|------------------|--------------|
| | Non-Agricultural | Agricultural |
| Number of properties in district | 3,906 | 60 |
| Total number of properties inspected following notification | 146 | 2 |
| Number infested by rats | 31 | 2 |
| Number infested by mice | 3 | — |
| Number of properties inspected other than by notification | 17 | 4 |
| Number infested by rats | 1 | 1 |
| Number infested by mice | 1 | — |

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Under this act it is an offence to keep a pet shop except under the authority of a licence granted by a local authority. It applies to market stalls as well as established premises.

Number of licences granted 2

AGRICULTURE, SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS), ACT, 1956

No action was necessary during the year in connection with the administration of Sections 3 and 5 of the above Act.

Within the administrative area of the Urban Authority there are thirty-six farms and holdings, none of which is considered large enough to merit the construction of additional wash places and conveniences for the people engaged. In every case the occupier is most willing to allow the existing amenities to be used by the agricultural workers concerned.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964

This Act came into force on 1st April, 1965, from which date all the principal provisions of the existing law relating to old metal dealers and marine store dealers were repealed and replaced by new statutory provisions for registration and control.

The Act is administered by the police, but registration is controlled by the local authority.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

Table A : Registrations and General Inspections

| CLASS OF PREMISES | Number registered during year | Total number at end of year | Number of general inspections |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Offices | 4 | 73 | 41 |
| Retail shops | 6 | 215 | 22 |
| Wholesale shops, warehouses .. | — | 1 | 1 |
| Catering establishments open to the public, canteens | 1 | 27 | 6 |
| Fuel storage depots .. | — | 1 | — |

Table B : Number of visits of all kinds 238

Table C : Analysis of Persons Employed

| Class of workplace | Number of persons employed |
|---|----------------------------|
| Offices | 363 |
| Retail shops | 676 |
| Wholesale departments, warehouses .. | 9 |
| Catering establishments open to the public/canteens | 166 |
| Fuel storage depots | 2 |
| TOTAL : | 1216 |
| (Males 489 : Females 727). | |

FACTORIES ACTS, 1961**Inspections** (including Inspections made by Public Health Inspector)

| PREMISES | Number on Register | Number of | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| | | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
| (I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 2 | 7 | — | — |
| (II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. | 73 | 132 | — | — |
| (III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises) | 7 | 22 | — | — |
| TOTAL | 82 | 161 | — | — |

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

| PARTICULARS | Number of Cases in which Defects were found | | | | |
|--|---|---------------|--------------|--------------|--|
| | Found | Re- medied | Referred | | No. of cases in which pro- secutions were instituted |
| | | | To H.M.I. | By H.M.I. | |
| Want of cleanliness .. | 4 | 3 | — | — | — |
| Overcrowding | — | — | — | — | — |
| Unreasonable temperature | 3 | 3 | — | — | — |
| Inadequate ventilation .. | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ineffective drainage of floors | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sanitary Conveniences— | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient .. | — | — | — | — | — |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | 3 | 2 | — | — | — |
| (c) Not separate for sexes .. | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) .. | — | — | — | — | — |
| TOTAL .. | 10 | 8 | — | — | — |

1 Registered Outworker.

BYE-LAWS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT

| <i>Date Operative</i> | <i>Adopting Authority</i> | <i>Subject Matter of Byelaw</i> |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| 7/5/03 .. | North'd County Council .. | Street betting Street obstructions Street music Lights on vehicles |
| 3/11/27 .. | Hexham U.D.C. .. | Tents, vans, sheds, and similar structures |
| 11/2/32 .. | Hexham U.D.C. .. | Slaughterhouses |
| 4/8/32 .. | North'd County Council .. | Nuisance caused by wireless loud speakers. Gramophones in shops and licensed premises |
| 1/5/39 .. | Hexham U.D.C. .. | New streets |
| 1/7/39 .. | North'd County Council .. | Litter, etc. |
| 1/12/46 .. | North'd County Council .. | Noisy animals |
| 1/3/47 .. | North'd County Council .. | Nuisances contrary to public decency |
| 1/12/49 .. | Hexham U.D.C. .. | Markets |
| 1/1/50 .. | North'd County Council .. | Bulls |
| 24/4/50 .. | North'd County Council .. | Sale of Contraceptives in slot machine |
| 17/7/50 .. | Hexham U.D.C. .. | Sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air |
| 12/10/53 .. | Hexham U.D.C. .. | Building Byelaws |
| 1/5/56 .. | North'd and Tyneside River Board | Rubbish, refuse or litter |
| 1/10/56 .. | North'd County Council .. | Employment of children |
| 1/3/57 .. | North'd County Council .. | Discharge of fireworks, etc. in places of public entertainment |
| 29/3/57 .. | North'd County Council .. | Sale of Coal |
| 1/8/58 .. | Hexham U.D.C. .. | Building Byelaws — Smoke prevention |
| 1/9/58 .. | North'd County Council .. | Deposit of mud and other material on highways |
| 1/9/58 .. | Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company .. | Prevention of waste, undue consumption, misuse or contamination of water |
| 1/8/59 .. | North'd County Council .. | Preservation of road margins laid out for ornamental purposes |
| 1/7/61 .. | Hexham U.D.C. .. | Pleasure grounds. |
| 1/9/61 .. | North'd County Council .. | Fouling of footpaths by dogs. |

**CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT
ACT, 1960**

Three private holiday sites are operated in the area licensed by the local authority for eight months in each year, opening on 1st March and closing on 31st October.

The sites are well organised and the owners provide all the amenities asked for by the Council.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

No action has yet been taken in connection with smoke control areas within the administrative district of the Council. The Council's officers however continue to gather information and technical details in order to submit reports and proposals when it is considered by the Council to be opportune.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

Number of visits and inspections 27

This is a useful Act which has been informally used to advantage. The occasional mobile vendor transgresses but usually only through ignorance of the regulations, and even these incidents are on the decline.

